



Irving Vermilya *W1ZE* Born in 1890 of the Mount Vernon NY area, built his first primitive wireless set in 1901 after returning from his trip to see The Maestro Marconi.

From the time Irv was age 12 he traveled with his father and family minister to Canada to hear Marconi speak. Amateur radio was his first love. After the talk, Marconi came over to the young man and encouraged him in the wireless art. He gave young Irv a piece of equipment which became Irvings first receiver set.

Vermilya became a member of Radio Club of American in 1911 using the personal sign “VN” but he was best known eventually as W1ZE. He was a cofounder of the radio fraternal group “OOTC.”

Irv received his Certificate of Skill No. 1 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1912. That was the year amateur radio got off the ground and was first licensed. For the remainder of his life, he was known as Americas Number 1 Amateur.

His life was full of operating positions and engineering for the broadcast industry and police public safety. He retired in 1955. Mr. Vermilya devoted his life to radio and had an understanding wife and family. He expired in 1964, we lost a very talented man.

